



State of North Carolina
Office of the Governor

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GOV. EASLEY ASKED TO HELP LEAD NATION'S TOP EDUCATION ORGANIZATION
Easley Joins Achieve, Inc., Board of Directors

RALEIGH – Gov. Easley has agreed to serve on the board of directors of Achieve, Inc., a national education organization focused on raising academic standards and reforming the nation's high schools. Easley joins five other governors and six of the nation's top corporate CEOs on the Achieve board.

"I am honored to be asked to serve on the board of an organization that is such an important and active voice for high standards, accountability, and success for students in today's economy," said Easley. "I look forward to working with Achieve in its efforts to reform high schools so that all students across the country are prepared for the high-skill jobs of the 21st century. Through efforts like this, we can ensure that America retains its competitive edge in the global economy."

Easley joins the board of Achieve as it begins an 18-state American Diploma Project Network focused on raising high school standards, improving student readiness for the demands of college and work, and increasing accountability for high schools and higher education. North Carolina is one of the states participating in the network.

"Through my work with Achieve, I will keep North Carolina in the forefront of high school innovation and education reform," said Easley. "I will also make sure our country takes the steps needed to align our educational systems with the demands of the 21st century work and life so that our people can compete and succeed in a global economy."

Easley has made reforming the state's high schools and better preparing students for the demands of higher education and the workplace a top priority in North Carolina. Easley has launched a 21st Century High Schools initiative to reduce dropouts, increase high school graduation rates, and better prepare students for college and the world of work. The 21st Century High Schools initiative includes:

- **Learn and Earn** early college high schools: These schools, located on college campuses, allow students to graduate in five years with both a high school diploma and either an associate's degree or two years of university credit. Fifteen Learn and Earn schools will be in operation this fall and Easley has announced plans for 75 across the state by 2008.

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